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**DECLARATION FOR UTILITY OR
DESIGN
PATENT APPLICATION
(37 CFR 1.63)**

Declaration Submitted with Initial Filing

OR

Declaration Submitted after Initial Filing (surcharge (37 CFR 1.16 (e)) required)

Attorney Docket Number	SNPKX 108
First Name Inventor	Ronald J. Schnipke, et al.
COMPLETE IF KNOWN	
Application Number	/
Filing Date	
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am the original and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

ROBOTIC LOADER FOR SURGICAL STAPLING CARTRIDGE

(Title of the Invention)

the specification of which

 is attached hereto

OR

 was filed on (MM/DD/YYYY) [redacted] as United States Application Number or PCT International

Application Number [redacted] and was amended on (MM/DD/YYYY) [redacted] (if applicable).

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

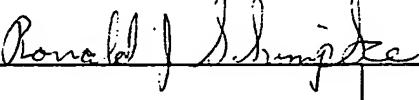
Prior Foreign Application Number(s)	Country	Foreign Filing Date (MM/DD/YYYY)	Priority Not Claimed	Certified Copy Attached? YES	Certified Copy Attached? NO
			<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>

 Additional foreign application numbers are listed on a supplemental priority data sheet PTO/SB/02B attached hereto:

[Page 1 of 2]

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DECLARATION — Utility or Design Patent Application

Direct all correspondence to: <input type="checkbox"/>		Customer Number or Bar Code Label	002555	OR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below
<p>Name Jason H. Foster Krembias, Foster, Phillips & Pollick</p>				
<p>Address 7632 Slate Ridge Boulevard</p>				
<p>City Reynoldsburg</p>		<p>State Ohio</p>	<p>ZIP 43068</p>	
<p>Country U.S.A.</p>		<p>Telephone 614/575-2100</p>	<p>Fax 614/575-2149</p>	
<p>I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. 1001 and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.</p>				
<p>NAME OF SOLE OR FIRST INVENTOR : <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor</p>				
<p>Given Name (first and middle [if any]) Ronald J.</p>			<p>Family Name or Surname Schnipke</p>	
<p>Inventor's Signature </p>				<p>Date 12-21-01</p>
<p>Residence: City Cloverdale</p>	<p>State Ohio</p>	<p>Country U.S.A.</p>	<p>Citizenship U.S.</p>	
<p>Mailing Address 14503 Road 24, Route 1</p>				
<p>City Cloverdale</p>		<p>State Ohio</p>	<p>ZIP 45827</p>	<p>Country U.S.A.</p>
<p>NAME OF SECOND INVENTOR: <input type="checkbox"/> A petition has been filed for this unsigned inventor</p>				
<p>Given Name (first and middle [if any]) David B.</p>			<p>Family Name or Surname Erhart</p>	
<p>Inventor's Signature </p>				<p>Date 12-21-01</p>
<p>Residence: City Kalida</p>	<p>State Ohio</p>	<p>Country U.S.A.</p>	<p>Citizenship U.S.</p>	
<p>Mailing Address 645 Hickory Street</p>				
<p>City Kalida</p>		<p>State Ohio</p>	<p>ZIP 45853</p>	<p>Country U.S.A.</p>
<p><input type="checkbox"/> Additional inventors are being named on the _____ supplemental Additional Inventor(s) sheet(s) PTO/SB/02A attached hereto.</p>				

Please type a plus sign (+) inside this box → +

PTO/SB/81 (02-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0035

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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POWER OF ATTORNEY OR AUTHORIZATION OF AGENT

Application Number	
Filing Date	
First Named Inventor	Ronald J. Schnipke
Title	Robotic Loader for Surgical Stapling Cartridge
Group Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	SNPKX 108

I hereby appoint:

- Practitioners at Customer Number
OR

- Practitioner(s) named below:

Name	Registration Number
Jason H. Foster	39,981
Francis T. Kremblas, Jr.	22,773
Frank H. Foster	24,560
Patrick P. Phillips	29,690

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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Firm or Individual Name	Jason H. Foster			
Address	Kremblas, Foster, Phillips & Pollick			
Address	7632 State Ridge Blvd.			
City	Reynoldsburg	State	Ohio	Zip 43068
Country	U.S.A.			
Telephone	614/575-2100	Fax	614/575-2149	

I am the:

- Applicant/Inventor.

- Assignee of record of the entire interest. See 37 CFR 3.71.

Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed. (Form PTO/SB/96).

SIGNATURE of Applicant or Assignee of Record

Name	Ronald J. Schnipke
Signature	<i>Ronald J. Schnipke</i>
Date	12/21/01

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

Total of 6 forms are submitted.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 3 minutes to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.

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Richard E. Halsey	46,752

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Name	Ronald J. Schnipke
Signature	<i>Ronald J. Schnipke</i>
Date	12/29/01

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Name	David B. Erhart
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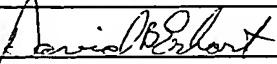
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